

# CONFORTH RANCH - O&M AND ENHANCEMENTS

9009200

## SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Develop and implement a long-term management plan for the Wanaket Wildlife Area and conduct custodial management and enhancement activities consistent with the plan.

## SPONSOR/CONTRACTOR: CTUIR

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation  
Carl Scheeler, Wildlife Program Manager  
DNR Wildlife Program  
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## SUB-CONTRACTORS:

N/A Sub-contracting with private entities may occur in present/future funding. No other agencies will be sub-contracted.

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## GOALS

### GENERAL:

Supports a healthy Columbia basin, Maintains biological diversity, Maintains genetic integrity, Provides needed habitat protection

### WILDLIFE:

Habitat

### NPPC PROGRAM MEASURE:

11.3D

### RELATION TO MEASURE:

11.3D represents a short term project agreement

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## BACKGROUND

### LAND AREA INFORMATION

#### Subbasin:

Umatilla

#### Land ownership:

Public, BIA Trust

#### Acres affected:

2,817

#### Habitat types:

Shrub/Steppe, grassland, Riparian tree/shrub, wetlands, open water, sand dune, rock outcrop, talus

### Hydro project mitigated:

McNary

## HISTORY:

The Agreement began in 1993, and will continue until title is passed to the CTUIR, when a long-term maintenance agreement will be negotiated. This project supports tens of thousands of migrating and resident waterfowl and shore birds annually. State and Federal sensitive, threatened and endangered species and species of special concern use the project. The wetland complexes found on the project are extremely rare in Umatilla County and their on-site location provides benefits to the populations impacted by the Columbia Basin hydropower projects.

## BIOLOGICAL RESULTS ACHIEVED:

Increase diversity of wildlife species and enhance native wetland, open water, and shrub/steppe wildlife habitats on 2800 acres adjacent to the McNary project. Wetland habitats heavily grazed previously have been protected with a resulting net improvement of habitat for resident and migratory wildlife populations. Estimated HU's from fully implemented project 2495.

## PROJECT REPORTS AND PAPERS:

Quarterly reports of progress are written by the CTUIR.

**ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS:**

Monitoring and evaluation of the species and habitat responses will be used to direct future management actions within the framework of the Management Plan/NEPA document prepared by the CTUIR and BPA to assure benefits from efforts expended.

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**PURPOSE AND METHODS**

**SPECIFIC MEASUREABLE OBJECTIVES:**

Provide an estimated 2,334 Habitat Units of protection credit and 2,495 Habitat Units of enhancement credit against Bonneville Power Administration's Hydro related debt.

**CRITICAL UNCERTAINTIES:**

Security of long-term funding for operations and maintenance of the project.

**BIOLOGICAL NEED:**

Restore/mitigate for wildlife habitats impacted by the construction and subsequent reservoir inundation of the McNary Hydro Facility as documented in the NPPC Wildlife Program's Losses Assessments.

**HYPOTHESIS TO BE TESTED:**

Enhancement and protection of wildlife habitats will have a corresponding benefit to wildlife populations.

**ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES:**

Conforth Ranch (Wanaket) Wildlife Mitigation Project Management Plan and EA.

**JUSTIFICATION FOR PLANNING:**

NA

**METHODS:**

For applicable information on specific implementation of this project please refer to the Conforth Ranch (Wanaket) Wildlife Mitigation Project, Management Plan and Environmental Assessment, 1996.

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**PLANNED ACTIVITIES**

**SCHEDULE:**

<b><u>Planning Phase</u></b>	<b><u>Start</u></b> 12/1/96	<b><u>End</u></b> 11/30/97	<b><u>Subcontractor</u></b>
<b><u>Task</u></b> Restoration/expansion of irrigation ditch system.			
<b><u>Implementation Phase</u></b>	<b><u>Start</u></b> 12/1/97	<b><u>End</u></b> 11/30/2001	<b><u>Subcontractor</u></b>
<b><u>Task</u></b> O & M, M&E Vegetation restorations and enhancements.			
<b><u>O&amp;M Phase</u></b>	<b><u>Start</u></b> 12/1/96	<b><u>End</u></b> 11/30/2001	<b><u>Subcontractor</u></b>
<b><u>Task</u></b> Flood irrigation of McNary Potholes and associated wetland habitats, regulation of public access, maintenance of irrigation infrastructure, fences and structures.			

**PROJECT COMPLETION DATE:**

2001 ongoing perpetual

**CONSTRAINTS OR FACTORS THAT MAY CAUSE SCHEDULE OR BUDGET CHANGES:**

None identified.

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## OUTCOMES, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

### SUMMARY OF EXPECTED OUTCOMES

**Expected performance of target population or quality change in land area affected:**

Permanent protection and enhancement of approximately 2800 acres of wetland, open water, and shrub/steppe habitats and increased productivity of wetland wildlife species.

**Assumed historic status of utilization and conservation potential:**

Please refer to the Conforth Ranch (Wanaket) Wildlife Mitigation Project, Management Plan and Environmental Assessment, 1996.

**Long term expected utilization and conservation potential for target population or habitat:**

Refer to the Conforth Ranch (Wanaket) Wildlife Mitigation Project, Management Plan and Environmental Assessment, 1996.

**Contribution toward long-term goal:**

Increase habitat diversity and wetland wildlife species on 2,800 acres

**Indirect biological or environmental changes:**

Refer to the Conforth Ranch (Wanaket) Wildlife Mitigation Project, Management Plan and Environmental Assessment, 1996.

**Physical products:**

2800 acres

**Environmental attributes affected by the project:**

Number, extent and duration of naturally occurring wetland habitats increased through flood irrigation. Human access regulated and livestock grazing restricted to protect habitats and wildlife, particularly during critical life history periods such as nesting and migration.

**Changes assumed or expected for affected environmental attributes:**

Number, extent and duration of naturally occurring wetland habitats increased through flood irrigation.

**Information products:**

Regular HEP updates.

**Coordination outcomes:**

The management plan and NEPA documentation has been completed. An agreement will be negotiated to turn title of the land over to the CTUIR for their long-term management. Funding to accomplish this long-term management has not yet been agreed to. During the past years, inventory of plant and animal populations has been on-going. The water delivery infrastructure has been overhauled including fish screens, intakes, electrical system, pumps and irrigation pipe, irrigation maintenance has occurred, and public access to the area has been regulated, including hunting during the waterfowl and upland game bird seasons. Fences have been maintained to control livestock trespass and clean-up of non-hazardous materials has occurred. Solid and hazardous waste have been identified, removed and disposed of. Planning for restoration of the canal water delivery system has been initiated.

### MONITORING APPROACH

Monitoring will include regular HEP updates and enhancement specific evaluations

For applicable information on specific implementation of this project please refer to the Conforth Ranch (Wanaket) Wildlife Mitigation Project, Management Plan and Environmental Assessment, 1996.

**Provisions to monitor population status or habitat quality:**

Habitat Evaluation Procedures, USFWS waterfowl survey protocols, upland brood survey methodologies.

**Data analysis and evaluation:**

Waterfowl and shorebird survey data will be used to gauge target population responses to habitat enhancements, HEP data will be used to measure increases in habitat units.

**Information feed back to management decisions:**

Waterfowl and shorebird survey data will be used to gauge target population responses to habitat enhancements, HEP data will be used to measure increases in habitat units.

**EVALUATION**

Number of habitat units credited to BPA for target HEP species, response of target species to enhancements.

**Incorporating new information regarding uncertainties:**

Through Integrated Adaptive Management Principles (IAMP).

**Increasing public awareness of F&W activities:**

Through regulated access programs for waterfowl and upland bird hunting, use of volunteer organizations to acquire wildlife survey data.

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**RELATIONSHIPS****RELATED BPA PROJECT**

9500800 Umatilla Tribe Wildlife Coordination

**RELATIONSHIP**

The CTUIR's wildlife mitigation planning and coordination throughout the ceded territory and the Umatilla Indian Reservation references and integrates the Wanaket Wildlife Area. Additions to the Wanaket Wildlife Area are proposed in the plan and the relationship of this project to other projects and priority mitigation areas is discussed.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION:**

Opportunities exist for cooperative efforts with private conservation organizations to enhance and maintain habitats and public use facilities associated with the project.

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**COSTS AND FTE**

**1997 Planned:** \$200,000

**FUTURE FUNDING NEEDS:**

<u>FY</u>	<u>\$ NEED</u>	<u>% PLAN</u>	<u>% IMPLEMENT</u>	<u>% O AND M</u>
1998	\$200,000	0%	40%	60%
1999	\$150,000	0%	20%	80%
2000	\$150,000	0%	20%	80%
2001	\$150,000	0%	20%	80%
2002	\$150,000	0%	20%	80%

**PAST OBLIGATIONS (incl. 1997 if done):**

<u>FY</u>	<u>OBLIGATED</u>
1990	\$18,777
1993	\$158,185
1994	\$77,442
1995	\$218,772
1996	\$204,747
1997	\$200,000

TOTAL: \$877,923

Note: Data are past obligations, or amounts committed by year, not amounts billed. Does not include data for related projects.

**LONGER TERM COSTS:**

\$150,000 annual O&M (estimate not considering implications of potential zoning of staff with future projects in the area.

**1997 OVERHEAD PERCENT:** 34%

**HOW DOES PERCENTAGE APPLY TO DIRECT COSTS:**

Indirect applied to personnel, services, travel, and services/supplies portions of funding. Does not apply to subcontracting activities.

**CONTRACTOR FTE:** 2

**SUBCONTRACTOR FTE:** NA

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